

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Please amend Claims 1 and 10 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A cordless power tool including a battery, the power tool comprising:

- (a) a main body portion;
- (b) a handle portion extending from the main body portion; and
- (c) a mechanism for releasably securing a battery having battery terminals to the handle portion, the mechanism including:

- (i) a battery receiving portion integral with the handle portion, the battery receiving portion having at least one guide channel and battery contacts disposed therein;

- (ii) a battery having an attachment portion integral with the battery, the attachment portion having at least one guide rail and being constructed and arranged for engaging the battery receiving portion such that

- a. the battery terminals engage the battery contacts, and
 - b. the at least one guide channel and the at least one guide rail interlock;

- (iii) a closure member operable with and transversely disposed at least partially within the battery receiving portion and configured to secure the battery within the battery receiving portion, the closure member having a lock position and a release position, the closure member including first and second opposite ends, the first end being exposed through a wall of the tool housing and defining a moveable release arrangement that has a push button for selectively moving the closure member from the lock position to the release position when the push button is depressed, thereby allowing the battery to be easily removed from the power tool.

10. (Twice Amended) A mechanism for releasably securing a battery having battery terminals to a power tool housing, the mechanism comprising:

(a) a battery receiving portion integral with the power tool housing, the battery receiving portion having battery contacts disposed therein and further having at least one guide channel;

(b) an attachment portion integral with the battery, the attachment portion having at least one guide rail and being constructed and arranged for engaging the battery receiving portion such that the battery terminals engage the battery contacts and the at least one guide channel and the at least one guide rail interlock;

(c) a closure member operable with and arranged substantially perpendicular to the battery receiving portion and configured to secure the battery within the battery receiving portion when the closure member is in a lock position and to disengage the battery when the closure member is in a release position, the closure member including:

(i) first and second opposite ends;

(ii) a body portion;

(iii) a locking portion integral with and extending from the body portion substantially near the second end of the closure member, the locking portion being constructed and arranged for releasably securing the battery within the battery receiving portion when the battery is positioned within the battery receiving portion,

wherein the first end of the closure member is disposed through a side wall of the battery receiving portion and defines a push button for selectively moving the closure member from the lock position to the release position when the push button is depressed.

Please cancel Claim 11.

Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

15. (Twice Amended) A method of releasably securing a battery to a power tool housing comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a battery receiving portion integral with the tool housing and being configured with at least one guide channel, the battery receiving portion being operable with a closure member at least partially disposed transversely within the battery receiving portion, the closure member having first and second opposite ends, the first end

being exposed through a wall of the tool housing and defining a finger engaging portion for selectively moving the closure member from a lock position to a release position, the closure member being movably biased in the lock position, the second end defining a push button;

(b) providing an attachment portion integral with the battery, the attachment portion being constructed and arranged for engaging the battery receiving portion, the attachment portion having at least one guide rail;

(c) aligning the attachment portion with the battery receiving portion;

(d) moving the battery in a direction such that the attachment portion slidably engages the battery receiving portion;

(e) wherein the at least one guide channel in the battery receiving portion and the at least one guide rail on the attachment portion interlock;

(f) positioning the battery within the battery receiving portion such that the closure member moves away from the lock position and then, once the battery is inserted fully, to the lock position, thereby securing the battery to the power tool;

(g) depressing the push button such that the closure member moves from the lock position to the release position; and

(h) moving the battery in a second direction such that the attachment portion disengages from the battery receiving portion.

Please cancel Claim 18.

Please amend Claim 20 as follows:

20. (Once Amended) A cordless power tool comprising a battery, the power tool comprising:

(a) a battery receiving portion, integral with the power tool and having at least one guide channel;

(b) an attachment portion, integral with the battery and having at least one guide rail, wherein the at least one guide channel in the battery receiving portion interlocks with the at least one guide rail on the attachment portion; and

(c) a closure member operable with and transversely disposed in relation to said battery receiving portion and attachment portion for releasably securing the battery in the power tool,

wherein an end of the closure member defines a push button for selectively moving the closure member from a lock position to a release position when the push button is depressed.

Please cancel Claims 22 and 23.

Please add new Claims 24-27:

24. (New) The cordless power tool of Claim 1, wherein the second end of the closure member protrudes from a side wall of the attachment portion when the push button is depressed allowing the battery to be removed from the power tool.

25. (New) The cordless power tool of Claim 24, wherein the push button is depressed inward relative to the attachment portion.

26. (New) The cordless power tool of Claim 25, wherein the closure member compresses a spring when the second end of the closure member protrudes from the side wall of the attachment portion.

27. (New) The cordless power tool of Claim 25, wherein the second end of the closure member does not protrude from the side wall of the attachment portion when the closure member is in the lock position.